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Vol. I.

THE TRANSCRIPT.

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By HENRY A. CUTLER.

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For the Transcript.

THE TREASURY.

BY BEN. D. HOUSE.

The fight was over; by traitors won; And night had long since hid the sun, Yet many a thousand weary feet Were treading on in quick retreat.

There in the battle's gory plain They left their wounded and their slain; Till many a mile from that day's fight They lay, they lay, they lay.

Wrapped in their blankets on the ground, They lay, they lay, they lay; And many a weary foot was treading on in quick retreat.

And while they sleep, with steady tramp The sentries around the camp Keep watch, and ward, o'er those who sleep, And many a weary foot was treading on in quick retreat.

They dream of home and many a friend; And many a weary foot was treading on in quick retreat.

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the past year no differences have arisen with any of these republics; and on the other hand, their sympathies with the United States are constantly expressed with cordiality and earnestness.

The claim arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig Macedonia in 1821 has been paid in full by the government of Chili.

Civil war continues in the Spanish part of St. Domingo, apparently without prospect of an early close.

Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of social and political progress in that republic. It may be expected to derive new vigor from American influence, improved by the rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States. I solicit your authority to furnish to the republic a gunboat at a moderate cost, to be remitted to the United States by installments. Such a vessel is needed for the safety of that State against the native African races, and in Liberia hands it would be more effective in arresting the African slave trade than a squadron in our hands.

The possession of the least organized naval force would stimulate a generous ambition in the republic, and the confidence which we should manifest by furnishing it would win forbearance and favor towards the colony from all civilized nations.

Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt died in April last. An unpleasant altercation which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the Government of the Pacha resulted in a suspension of intercourse. The evil was promptly corrected on the arrival of the successor in the consulate and our relations with Egypt, as well as our relations with the Barbary Powers are entirely satisfactory.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH.

The proposed overland telegraph between America and Europe, by the way of Behring's Straits and Asiatic Russia, which was sanctioned by Congress at the last session, has been undertaken, under very favorable circumstances, by an association of American citizens, with the cordial good will and support as well as of this Government as those of Great Britain and Russia.

Assurances have been received from most of the South American States of their high appreciation of the enterprise and their readiness to co-operate in constructing lines tributary to that world encircling communication.

I learn with much satisfaction that the noble design of a telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America and Great Britain has been renewed with full expectation of its early accomplishment. Thus it is hoped that with the return of domestic peace the country will be able to resume with energy and advantage her former high career of commerce and civilization.

EGYPT, CHINA AND JAPAN.

The rebellion which has long been rampant in China has at last been suppressed with the co-operating good offices of this Government and the other western commercial states. The judicial consular establishment there has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative regulation to adapt it to the extension of our commerce, and to the more intimate intercourse which has been instituted with the government and the people of that vast empire.

China seems to be accepting with hearty good will, the conventional laws which regulate commercial and social intercourse among the western nations.

Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan, and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that empire in performing treaty stipulations is meagre and capricious. Nevertheless, good progress has been effected by the Western powers moving with enlightened concert. Our own pecuniary claims have been allowed or put in course of settlement, and the inland sea has been re-opened to commerce.

There is reason also to believe that these proceedings have increased rather than diminished the friendship of Japan toward the United States.

SOUTHERN PORTS.

The ports of Norfolk, Fernandina, and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will now consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports than it is to pursue through many hazards and at vast cost a contraband trade with other ports which are closed, if not by actual military operations, at least by a lawful and effectual blockade.

For myself, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the executive under the law of nations to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress should think that proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further regulated by it, I recommend that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring domicile and facilities for their criminal occupation in our country.

It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the light they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval belligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are and always have been, equally of ships-of-war and of ports and harbors. Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts, under favor of that privilege, to embroil our country in foreign wars.

The desire and determination of the governments of the maritime States to

defeat that design are believed to be as sincere, and cannot be more earnest, than our own. Nevertheless unforeseen political difficulties have arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required, and are likely to continue to require, the practice of constant vigilance and a just and conciliatory spirit, on the part of the United States, as well as of the nations concerned, and their governments.

Commissioners have been appointed under the treaty with Great Britain in the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson Bay and Puget's Sound agricultural companies in Oregon, and are now proceeding to the execution of the trust assigned to them.

THE CANADIAN BORDER TREATY.

In view of the insecurity of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by reason of recent assaults and depredations committed by inimical and desperate persons, who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months, the period conditionally stipulated in the existing arrangement with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament upon the lakes, if they shall find that proceeding necessary. The condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the twenty-six States, as well as the regulation of imports, which were temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of the 5th of June, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood, while making this statement, that the colonial authorities of Canada are not deemed to be intentionally unjust or unfriendly toward the United States; but, on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of the imperial government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the border.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO IMMIGRATION.

This act passed at the last session for the encouragement of immigration has, so far as was possible, been put into operation. It seems to need amendments, which will enable the officers of the government to prevent the practice of frauds against the immigrants while on their way to and on their arrival in the ports, and so as to secure them here a free choice of vocations and places of settlement. A liberal disposition towards this great national policy is manifested by most of the European States, and ought to be reciprocated on our part by giving the immigrants effective national protection. I regard our immigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams which are appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war and its wastes of national strength and health. All that is necessary is to secure the flow of that stream in its present fullness, and to that end the government must in every way make it manifest that it neither needs nor designs to impose involuntary military service upon those who come from other lands to cast their lot in our country.

THE FINANCES.

The financial affairs of the general government have been successfully administered during the last year. The legislation of the last session of Congress has beneficially affected the revenues, although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to experience the full effect of several of the provisions of Congress imposing increased taxation. The receipts during the year from all sources upon the basis of warrants signed by the secretary of the treasury, including loans and the balance in the treasury on the first day of July, 1864, were \$1,391,796,007.62, and the aggregate disbursements, upon the same basis, were \$1,238,056,101.89, leaving a balance in the treasury, as shown by warrants, of \$96,739,905.73. Deduct from these amounts the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed, and the amount of issues in the substitution thereof, and the actual cash operations of the treasury were: receipts, \$884,076,046.77; disbursements, \$865,234,087.86; which leaves a cash balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558.71. Of the receipts, there were derived from customs, \$192,316,152.99; from lands, \$588,333.29; from direct tax, \$475,648.96; from internal revenue \$109,741,151.10; from miscellaneous sources, \$47,511,448.10; and from loans applied to actual expenditures, including former balance, \$623,443,929.13.

There were disbursed, for the civil service, \$27,595,599.46; for pensions and Indians, \$7,547,930.97; for the war department, \$680,791,842.97; for navy department, \$85,733,292.77; for interest of the public debt, \$53,685,421.69; making an aggregate of \$865,234,087.86, and leaving a balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558.71, as before stated.

THE TREASURY.

For the actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the three remaining quarters of the current fiscal year, and the general operations of the Treasury in detail, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. I concur with him in the opinion that the proportion of the moneys required to meet the expenses consequent upon the war, derived from taxation, should be still further increased, and I earnestly invite your attention to this subject to the end that there may be required to meet the just expectation of the secretary. The public debt on the first day of July last, as appears by the books of the treasury, amount-

ed one billion seven hundred and forty million, six hundred and ninety thousand, four hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents. Probably, should the war continue for another year, that amount may be increased by not far from five hundred millions. Held as it is for the most part by our own people, it has become a substantial branch of national, though private property. For obvious reasons the more nearly this property can be distributed among all the people the better. To favor such general distribution, greater inducements to become owners might, perhaps, with good effect, and without injury, be presented to persons of limited means. With this view, I suggest whether it might not be both expedient and competent for Congress to provide that a limited amount of some future issue of public securities might be held by any bona fide purchaser exempt from taxation, and from seizure for debt, under such restrictions and limitations as might be necessary to guard against abuse of so important a privilege. This would enable prudent persons to set aside a small annuity against a possible day of want. Privileges like these would render the possession of such securities to the amount limited most desirable to every person of small means, who might be able to save enough for the purpose. The great advantage of citizens being creditors, as well as debtors, with relation to the public debt, is obvious. Men readily perceive that they cannot be much oppressed by a debt which they owe to themselves.—The public debt on the 1st day of July last, although somewhat exceeding the estimate of the Secretary for the Treasury made to Congress at the commencement of last session, falls short of the estimate of that officer made in the preceding December, as to its probable amount at the beginning of this year, by the sum of \$4,995,079.33. This fact exhibits a satisfactory condition and conduct of the operations of the Treasury.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The national banking system is proving to be acceptable to capitalists and to the people.

On the 25th day of November, 584 national banks had been organized, a considerable number of which were conversions from State banks. Changes from the State system to the national system are rapidly taking place, and it is hoped that very soon there will be in the United States no banks of issue not authorized by Congress, and no note circulation not secured by the Government. That the government and the people will derive general benefit from this change in the banking system of the country can hardly be questioned. The national system will create a reliable and permanent influence in support of the national credit, and protect the people against losses in the use of paper money. Whether or not any further legislation is advisable for the suppression of State bank issues, it will be for Congress to determine. It seems quite clear that the treasury cannot be satisfactorily conducted unless the government can exercise a restraining power over the bank-note circulation of the country.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of War, and the accompanying documents, will detail the campaigns of the armies in the field since the date of the last annual message, and also the operation of the several administrative bureaus of the War Department during the last year.

It will also specify the measures deemed essential for the national defense, and to keep up and supply the requisite military force. The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a comprehensive and satisfactory exhibit of the affairs of that department, and of the naval service. It is a subject of congratulation and laudable pride to our countrymen that a navy of such vast proportions has been organized in so brief a period and conducted with so much efficiency and success.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NAVY.

The general exhibit of the navy, including vessels under construction on the 1st of December, 1864, shows a total of 971 vessels carrying 4,610 guns, and 510,397 tons, being an actual increase during the year, over and above all losses by shipwreck or in battle, of 83 vessels, 167 guns, and 42,427 tons. The total number of men at this time in the naval service, including officers, is about 51,000. There have been captured by the navy during the year 324 vessels, and the whole number of naval captures since hostilities commenced is 1,379, of which 207 are steamers. The gross proceeds arising from the sale of condemned prize property, thus far reported, amounts to \$14,396,250.51. A large amount of such proceeds is still under adjudication, and yet to be reported. The total expenditure of the Navy Department, of every description, including the cost of the immense squadrons that have been called into existence from the 4th of March, 1861, to the 1st of November, 1864, are \$238,477,262.35. Your favorable consideration is invited to the various recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy, especially in regard to the navy-yard, and suitable establishment for the construction and repair of iron vessels and the machinery and armament for our ships, to which reference was made in my last annual message.

Your attention is also invited to the views expressed in the report in relation to the legislation of Congress at its last session, in respect to prizes on our inland waters.

THE VICE-ADMIRALTY.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the secretary, as to the propriety of creating the new rank of vice-admiral in our naval service.

THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Your attention is invited to the report of the Postmaster General for a detailed account of the operations and financial condition of the Post-office Department.

The postal revenue for the year ending June 30th, 1864, amounted to \$12,438,253.78, and the expenditures to \$12,644,786.20; the excess of expenditures over receipts being \$206,532.42.

The views presented by the Postmaster General on the subject of special grants by the government in aid of the establishment of new lines of ocean mail steamship, and the policy of increased commercial intercourse with adjacent and neighboring countries, should receive the careful consideration of Congress.

It is of noteworthy interest that the steady expansion of population, improvement, and governmental institutions over the new and unoccupied portions of our country, have scarcely been checked, much less impeded or destroyed by our great civil war, which at first glance would seem to have absorbed almost the entire energies of the nation.

NEVADA.

The organization and admission of the State of Nevada has been completed, in conformity with law, and thus our excellent system is firmly established in the mountains, which once seemed a barren and uninhabitable waste, between the Atlantic States and those which have grown up on the coast of the Pacific ocean.

THE TERRITORIES.

The territories of the Union are generally in a condition of prosperity and rapid growth. Idaho, Montana, by reason of their great distance and the interruption of communication with them by Indian hostilities, have been only partially organized; but it is understood that these difficulties are about to disappear, which will permit their government, like those of the others, to go into speedy and full operation. As intimately connected with and promotive of this material growth of the nation, I ask the attention of Congress to the valuable information and important recommendations relating to the public lands, Indian affairs, the Pacific railroads, and mineral discoveries, contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior which is herewith transmitted, and which report also embraces the subjects of patents, pensions, and other topics of public interest pertaining to his department. The quantity of public land disposed of during the first quarter ending on the 30th of September last was 4,221,342 acres, of which 1,538,614 acres were entered under the homestead law.—The remainder was located with military land warrants, agricultural scrips allotted to states for railroads, and sold for cash. The cash received from sales and location fees was \$19,194.46. The income for sales during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, was \$678,007.21, against \$1,360,077.95 received during the preceding year. The aggregate number of acres surveyed during the year has been equal to the quantity disposed of, and there is open to settlement about 133,000,000 acres of surveyed land.

The great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific States by railroads and telegraph lines has been entered upon with a vigor that gives assurance of success, notwithstanding the embarrassments arising from the prevailing high prices of materials and labor. The route of the mail line of the road has been definitely located for one hundred miles westward from the initial point at Omaha city, Nebraska; and a preliminary location of the Pacific railroad of California has been made from Sacramento eastward to the bend of Truckee river in Nevada. Numerous discoveries of gold, silver and emerald mines have been added to the many heretofore known, and the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and Rocky mountains and the subordinate ranges now teems with enterprising labor which is richly remunerative. It is believed that the product of the mines of precious metals in that region during the year reached, if not exceeding one hundred millions in value.

It was recommended in my last annual message that our Indian system be remodelled. Congress at its last session, acting upon the recommendation, did provide for re-organizing the system in California, and it is believed that under the present organization the management of the Indians there will be attended with reasonable success. Much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country, to render it secure for the advancing settler, and to provide for the welfare of the Indian. The secretary reiterates his recommendations, and to them the attention of Congress is invited.

PENSIONS.

The liberal provisions made by Congress for paying pensions to invalid soldiers and sailors of the republic, and to the widows, orphans and dependent mothers of those who have fallen in the battle, or died of disease contracted, or of wounds received in the service of their country, have been diligently administered. There have been added to the pension rolls during the year ending the 30th day of June last the names of 16,770 invalid soldiers and of 271 disabled seamen, making the present number of army

invalid pensioners 227,672; of navy pensioners 712; of widows, orphans and mothers 22,198 have been placed on the army pension rolls and 248 on the navy rolls. The present number of army pensioners of this class is 22,433 and of navy pensioners 793.

At the beginning of the year, the number of revolutionary pensioners was 1430; only twelve of them were soldiers, of whom seven have since died. The remainder are those who under the law receive pensions because of relationship to revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending the 30th June, 1864, \$4,504,616.92 have been paid to pensioners of all classes.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

I cheerfully commend to your continued patronage the benevolent institutions of the District of Columbia, which have hitherto been established or fostered by Congress and respectfully refer for information concerning them, and in relation to the Washington aqueduct, the capitol, and other matters of local interest, to the report of the secretary.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The agricultural department, under the supervision of its present energetic and faithful head, is rapidly commencing itself to the great and vital interest it was created to advance. It is practically the people's department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other. I commend it to the continued attention and fostering care of Congress.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The war continues. Since the last annual message, all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained and our armies have steadily advanced, thus liberating the regions left in the rear so that Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and parts of other States have again produced reasonably fair crops. The most remarkable feature in military operations of the year is General Sherman's attempted march of three hundred miles directly through the insurgent region. It tends to show a great increase of our relative strength, that our general-in-chief should feel able to confront and hold in check every active force of the enemy, and yet to detach a well appointed and large army to move on such an expedition. The result not yet being known, conjecture in regard to it is not here indulged in.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Important movements have also occurred during the year to the effect of moulding society for durability in the Union. Although short of complete success, it is much in the right direction that 12,000 citizens in each of the States of Arkansas and Louisiana have organized loyal State governments, with free constitutions, and are earnestly struggling to maintain and administer them. The movement in the same direction, more extensive though less definite, in Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, should not be overlooked. But Maryland presents the example of complete success. Maryland is secure to liberty and the Union for all the future. The genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland. Like another foul spirit being driven out, it may rend and tear her, but it will woo her no more.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

At the last session of Congress a proposed amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery throughout the U. S. passed the Senate, but failed for lack of the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives. Although the present is the same Congress, and nearly the same members, and without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the reconsideration and passage of the measure at the present session. Of course the abstract question is not changed, but an intervening election shows almost certainly that the next Congress will pass the measure, if this does not. Hence, there is only a question of time as to when the proposed amendment will go to the states for their action, and as it is so good at all events, may we not agree that the sooner the better. It is not claimed that the election has imposed a duty on members to change their views or their votes any further than as an additional element to be considered as their judgment may be affected by it. It is the voice of the people, now for the first time heard upon the question. In a great national crisis like ours, unanimity of action among those seeking a common end is very desirable, almost indispensable, and yet no approach to such unanimity is attainable unless some deference shall be paid to the will of the majority, simply because it is the will of the majority.

THE RECENT ELECTION.

In this case, the common end is the maintenance of the Union, and among the means to secure that end, such will, through the election, is most clearly declared in favor of such constitutional amendment. The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections. Judging by the recent canvass and its result, the purpose of the people within the loyal States to maintain the integrity of the Union was never more firm nor more nearly unanimous than now. The extraordinary calmness and good order with which the millions of voters met mingled at the polls, gave strong assurance of this. Not only all those who supported the "union ticket" (so called), but a great majority of the opposing party also may be fairly claimed to entertain and to be actuated by the same purpose. It is an unanswerable argument to this effect, that no candidate for any office what-

ever, high or low, has ventured to seek votes on the avowal that he was for giving up the Union. There have been much impugning of motives and much heated controversy as to the proper means and best mode of advancing the Union cause, but in the distinct issue of Union or no Union the politicians have shown their instinctive knowledge that there is no diversity among the people. In affording the people the fair opportunity of showing one to another, and to the world, this firmness and unanimity of purpose, the election has been of vast value to the national cause. The election has exhibited another fact not less valuable to be known, the fact that we do not approach exhaustion in the most important branch of the national resources—that of living men. While it is melancholy to reflect that the war has filled so many graves and carried mourning to so many hearts, it is some relief to know that, compared with the surviving, the fallen have been so few. While corps and divisions and brigades and regiments have formed and fought and disbanded and gone out of existence, a great majority of the men who composed them are still living. The same is true of the naval service. The election returns prove this. So many voters could not else be found. The states regularly holding elections, both now and four years ago, to wit: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New-York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, cast 3,982,011 votes now against 3,870,222 cast then, showing an increase of 111,789 to which is to be added 33,762 cast now in the new states of Kansas and Nevada, which states did not vote in 1860, thus swelling the aggregate to 4,015,773, and the net increase during the three years and a half of war to 145,751. A table appended showing particulars. To this again should be added the number of all soldiers in the field from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, and California, who, by the laws of those states, could not vote away from their homes, and which number cannot be less than 90,000. Nor yet is this all. The number in organized territories is triple now what it was four years ago while thousands—white and black—join us as the national arms press back the insurgent lines. So much is shown affirmatively and negatively by the election. It is not material to inquire how the increase has been produced, or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true; the important fact remains demonstrated, that we have more men now than we had when the war began, that we are not exhausted nor in process of exhaustion; that we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely. This is a men.

Material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever.—The national resources, then, are unexhausted, and, as we believe, inexhaustible. The purpose to re-establish and maintain the national authority is unchanged, and, as we believe, unchangeable. The manner of continuing the effort it remains to choose.

NEGOTIATION.

On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept of nothing short of the severance of the Union. His declarations to this effect are explicit and oft repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves.—We cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple, and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war, and decided by victory. If we yield we are beaten. If the southern people fail him, he is beaten. Either way it would be the victory and defeat following war. What is true, however, of him who leads the insurgent cause, is not necessarily true of those who follow. Although he cannot reconquer the Union, they can. Some of the men we know, already desire peace and reunion.—The number of such may increase.—They can, at any moment, have peace, simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After so much the government could not, if it would, maintain war against them.—The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts and votes, operating only in constitutional and lawful channels. Some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the executive power to adjust, as, for instance, the admission of members into Congress and whatever might require the appropriation of money. The excess of power itself would be greatly diminished by the cessation of actual war. Pardons and remissions of forfeiture, however, would still be within executive control. In what spirit and temper this control would be enforced can be fairly judged of by the past.—A year ago general pardons and amnesty upon specified terms were offered to all except certain designated classes, and it was at the same time made known that the excepted classes were still within the contemplation of special amnesty. During the year many have av